

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): A golf ball comprising a core, an intermediate layer enclosing the core to form a sphere, and a cover enclosing the intermediate layer, wherein each component has a Shore D hardness, a Deflection amount, an initial velocity (in m/s) and a thickness (in mm), the Deflection amount being defined as an amount of deflection (in mm) under load of a spherical body incurred when the load is increased from an initial value of 98 N (10 kgf) to a final value of 1275 N (130 kgf), and the ball satisfies the following requirements (1) to ~~(4)~~ (5):

(1) (Shore D hardness of the cover) - (Shore D hardness of the intermediate layer) > 0,

(2) (initial velocity of the sphere) - (initial velocity of the core) > 0,

(3)  $0.90 \leq (\text{Deflection amount of the sphere})/(\text{Deflection amount of the core}) \leq 1.00$ ,

and

(4) the total of the thickness of the intermediate layer and the thickness of the cover is up to 3.0 mm

(5)  $0.85 \leq (\text{Deflection amount of the golf ball})/(\text{Deflection amount of the sphere}) \leq 0.95$ .

2. (currently amended): The golf ball of claim 1 which further satisfies the following requirements ~~(5) to (9)~~ ~~(6) to (10)~~:

~~(5)(6)~~ the thickness of the cover is from 0.5 mm to 2.0 mm,  
~~(6)(7)~~ the Shore D hardness of the cover is from 55 to 70,  
~~(7)(8)~~ the thickness of the intermediate layer is from 0.5 mm to 1.6 mm,  
~~(8)(9)~~ the Shore D hardness of the intermediate layer is from 40 to 60, and  
~~(9)(10)~~ the golf ball has an initial velocity of at least 76.5 m/s.

3. (currently amended): The golf ball of claim 1 which further satisfies the following requirement ~~(10)~~ ~~(11)~~:

~~(10)(11)~~ the cover has a melt flow rate of at least 2 g/10 min.

4. (canceled).

5. (currently amended): ~~The golf ball of claim 1~~ A golf ball comprising a core, an intermediate layer enclosing the core to form a sphere, and a cover enclosing the intermediate layer, wherein each component has a Shore D hardness, a Deflection amount, an initial velocity (in m/s) and a thickness (in mm), the Deflection amount being defined as an amount of deflection (in mm) under load of a spherical body incurred when the load is increased from an initial value of 98 N (10 kgf) to a final value of 1275 N (130 kgf), and the ball satisfies the following requirements (1) to (4):

(1) (Shore D hardness of the cover) - (Shore D hardness of the intermediate layer) > 0,

(2) (initial velocity of the sphere) - (initial velocity of the core) > 0,

(3) 0.90 ≤ (Deflection amount of the sphere)/(Deflection amount of the core) ≤ 1.00,  
and

(4) the total of the thickness of the intermediate layer and the thickness of the cover is up to 3.0 mm,

wherein said intermediate layer comprises:

(A) an ionomer resin comprising (a-1) an olefin/unsaturated carboxylic acid binary random copolymer and/or a metal ion neutralized product thereof and (a-2) an olefin/unsaturated carboxylic acid/unsaturated carboxylic acid ester ternary random copolymer and/or a metal ion neutralized product thereof in a weight ratio (a-1)/(a-2) between 100/0 and 0/100, and

(B) a non-ionomeric thermoplastic elastomer in a weight ratio A/B between 100/0 and 50/50,

(C) 5 to 80 parts by weight of an organic fatty acid and/or a derivative thereof having a molecular weight of 280 to 1,500, and

(D) 0.1 to 10 parts by weight of a basic inorganic metal compound capable of neutralizing un-neutralized acid groups in said resin component and component (C),

wherein the ionomer resin (A) and the non-ionomeric thermoplastic elastomer (B) in a weight ratio A/B between 100/0 and 50/50 are 100 parts by weight.

6. (canceled).

7. (previously presented): The golf ball of claim 5, wherein the weight ratio A/B is between 100/0 and 60/40.